



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

Groupe canadien
d'étude des parlements

SHIFTING SEATS: POLITICAL REALIGNMENTS, COALITIONS, AND CHANGING LEGISLATURES

Friday November 13, 2026

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

West Block, 111 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

Shifting Seats: Political Realignment, Coalitions, and Changing Legislatures

This half-day seminar will explore the evolving composition of legislatures and will aim to provide a comparative perspective. It will examine how political realignments influence parliamentary dynamics, as well as how floor-crossing practices and coalition-building affect parliamentary work and procedures in both minority and majority settings.

ARRIVAL

From 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

CHANGING COMPOSITION: PROCEDURAL IMPLICATIONS

From 8:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.

Moderator: Hugues La Rue, CSPG Board Member

- Shaila Anwar, Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments
- Eric Janse, Clerk of the House of Commons
- Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

BREAK

From 9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

SHIFTING SEATS: ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES

From 9:50 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Moderator: Alison Zinni, CSPG Board Member

- André Blais, Emeritus Professor, Université de Montréal

- Alex Marland, Professor, Acadia University
- Lori Turnbull, Professor, Dalhousie University

Q&A WITH FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO CROSSED THE FLOOR

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Moderator: Charlie Feldman, CSPG Board Member

- Jenica Atwin, former MP for Fredericton, House of Commons
- The Hon. Dennis Dawson, former Senator, Senate
- Amanda Simard, former MPP for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

LUNCH

From 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration

To register to this event only, [click here](#). The deadline is Monday, November 9, 2026.

To register for this year's series of three events, [click here](#).

Fees*

- General admission: \$125
- Students, retirees and university professors: \$35 (contact us for a discount)
- Groups of 10 or more: a group rate is available upon request
- Series of three events: \$325. For more details, [click here](#).

Other Information

- Hybrid event with online participation available
- Bilingual event with simultaneous interpretation available in English and French
- Coffee and lunch offered to in-person participants

We strive to make our events as accessible as possible. Please contact us for further information.

* Registration is transferable but not refundable. You must advise the CSPG by the registration deadline (Monday, November 9, 2026) of any changes to your registration.

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group is dedicated to enhancing the understanding of parliamentary government and institutions by promoting research and dialogue on legislative systems in Canada. To that end, we are pleased to offer a series of non-partisan seminars on parliamentary and legislative topics with presentations from experts in the field. The seminars are bilingual – simultaneous interpretation is provided – and open to all.

For more information

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